

To: Energy & Technology Committee

Date: 2/22/2022

Subject: HB 5116

I support this effort to have the utilities replace trees that they have removed, thereby assisting towns in recovering tree canopy cover.

- A significant number of large shade trees should be included to increase the depth of canopy cover and all the eco-system services large trees provide, including carbon sequestration and decreased urban heat island effects.
- The trees should be native where possible since native trees mitigate our biodiversity crisis.
- I disagree with forbidding trees to be planted where trees were removed. "Right tree, right place" works, ie, planting a smaller tree that does not interfere with overhead lines.
- The utilities should remove the stumps of the trees that they have killed and it should be made clear and/or monitored that this legislation does not justify more tree removal by the utilities. Street trees improve human physical and mental health, increase visitation to businesses, increase property values, increase walking and biking, decrease crime, decrease storm water run off, mitigate climate change and support our dwindling urban wildlife (Green Cities: Good Health, Univ. of Washington, 2018).

Thank you,

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